

on the other hand, carries out, additionally to descaling of the electrodes, sand blasting of the strip and pickling.

While the Japanese reference discloses a device similar to that of the present invention as claimed, it is submitted that the difference mentioned above means that the present invention is patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

A Request for Continued Examination is being submitted concurrently herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 6, 2009.

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Date: April 6, 2009